

SP110 8-15-79

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

Date of Transcription 3/13/12

Anthony Thomas RUFFIN, currently incarcerated at the Western Tidewater Regional Jail was interviewed on March 1, 2012, concerning his knowledge of the Work Release Program operated by the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office. This interview was conducted by [REDACTED] Prior to commencing the interview, RUFFIN was advised of the identities of the interviewers and the purpose of the interview.

RUFFIN stated that in August of 2010, he noticed certain inmates leaving the work center in civilian clothes. He said he questioned where they were going, and he was told "TBA". RUFFIN explained that he expressed an interest in being assigned to "TBA" to a deputy known only to him as hotdog. Ruffin said approximately a week later, Mr. Vick talked with him and told him that if he had street clothes he could start working TBA the next day. Ruffin explained that he had to remove his inmate wrist band before he left so that no one would know that he was an inmate.

RUFFIN explained his first assignment with TBA was working on a building that had burned near the Sheriff's Office Training Academy. He stated he did some landscaping and then they took some of the left over mulch to a residence off of Indian River Road known as the "Doll house." RUFFIN added that Vick's fiancé Marcel lived in the "Doll house."

RUFFIN stated "TJ" Timothy Fields and Omar were also assigned to TBA when he first started. He stated that they also worked on another building near the firehouse on Effingham Street. He described that it was in a fenced in area, near an auto shop.

RUFFIN stated that he also worked on Mr. Channing's house, who he believes to be the TBA's President. He explained that he painted, did sheetrock repairs, and worked on the deck. He described Channing's house as a million dollar oceanfront home located somewhere near a bridge and a military base. RUFFIN said that several other inmates worked with him on Channing's house.

RUFFIN explained that in the beginning he received no pay for his work, but that he turned in a form every month documenting his hours. He stated that Mr. Vick picked him up from the work center normally, but that Marcel's son Josh Perrish would pick him up when Vick could not.

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RUFFIN stated that Vick's ex-wife lived in a house on Ballahack Road, and that after Vick and Marci got married she moved out. He said that Vick used inmates to remodel the house before they moved in. RUFFIN stated that he worked at the house on Ballahack Road for approximately six months, spending a minimum of eight hours a day, seven days a week. He described the house as being on the right, with a white fence and a wagon in the front yard that he painted red, black and brown. RUFFIN stated that he built and painted the fence, ripped up urine smelling carpet, cut the grass and completely remodeled the interior of the house. He said that he painted the whole house, laid laminate flooring, tore out walls, moved the kitchen, remodeled the bathrooms and put up sheetrock. RUFFIN stated that Vick provided food and cartons of cigarettes to the inmates doing the work. RUFFIN explained that after the house was completed Vick threw a big cookout. He added the inmates and their families attended. When asked if the sheriff knew about the house Ruffin stated, he came to the cookout riding his motorcycle and saw all of us there.

RUFFIN said that he also did work for Vick's neighbor, Mr. Hart. He said that he cut his grass and worked in his sign shop making signs. He explained that Mr. Hart paid him directly and that he has pay stubs and tax forms for the last 90 days he worked there.

RUFFIN explained that Vick wanted him to give him some of the money that he earned to put on the books, so that Vick could turn around and write him a check back to make it look like he was paying him.

RUFFIN stated that Marci (Vick's wife) was partners in Four Paws Dog Shop with a woman who was married to a retired Chesapeake police officer. He said the retired police officer is now an Auxiliary Sergeant with the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office. RUFFIN explained that he helped Vick put an addition on the couple's house. He stated it is located off of Indian River Road near the "Doli house."

RUFFIN stated that during the first part of 2011, he worked at Sheriff Watson's house. He recalled this was the first time that he met Matt, who was in the process of becoming a Portsmouth Deputy. He described Matt as being in charge, like a foreman. RUFFIN explained he and TJ installed tongue and groove flooring in the second story of the sheriff's garage, and carried three tab shingles to the roof. RUFFIN said the sheriff came to the house and wrote down all the inmates' names that were working there, so that he could write them checks to put in their canteen fund. RUFFIN added that he got his check directly and sent it to his girlfriend. He remembered that the check was for approximately \$150.00, and was written on the sheriff's personal account. RUFFIN stated he delivered lumber to the sheriff's house, so that other inmates could build a

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deck. RUFFIN recalled delivering and picking up a hot tub at the sheriff's house, and delivering a door that was taken from the burned building to the sheriff's country place.

RUFFIN stated that he worked on Gomoke's house also. He explained that Matt had completed his training and was a deputy at the time that he supervised the work on Gomoke's residence. Ruffin stated that he put shake style siding on the "A" frame area of the house, nailed up trim wrap, painted shutters, the garage door, the back French doors and around the front door.

Ruffin explained that Vick helped him get a regular identification card, so that people would not know he was an inmate. He added that he also cut the grass at the "Doll house" and moved Vick and Marcl from the "Doll House" to the house on Ballahack Road.

RUFFIN stated he worked on Deputy Antwan Corprew's house. He said that he painted the whole house inside using twenty five gallons of paint and did some remodeling. He explained that when VICK was on vacation Corprew would pick them up from the work center and take them to his house to work. RUFFIN stated that after Corprew dropped them off he would go and run his assigned crew and return at the end of the day. RUFFIN stated they were not supervised and that they would often sleep, drink alcohol, and have visitors during the day. RUFFIN said Corprew would leave them a work list and that he did not pay them or feed them well.

RUFFIN stated that Mr. Mack from TBA had some of them move his belongings out of storage and take them to an apartment. He added that Mr. Mack may not have known they were inmates. He recalled they also moved Mr. Channing's daughter Shannon out of her house to include: boxes, sofa, and a water heater.

When asked if Channing knew he was an inmate he stated yes, because I once asked him if he would help me get a job once I got out of jail.

RUFFIN recalled doing work at Karen's house. He stated he doesn't know her last name but she has an office at the Sheriff's Office Training Academy. He said that Matt used him to install vinyl siding and a new front door. RUFFIN said that Karen gave Vick fifty dollars for Ruffin and she directly gave him a carton of cigarettes. He stated that he also had done work at Vick's parent's house.

RUFFIN explained that he was in the work center garage one day with Sonny Meeks, when Meeks mentioned the Ballahack Road house. RUFFIN said the sheriff overheard them and asked him what they were doing at Ballahack. RUFFIN replied "TBA stuff."

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RUFFIN said he then overheard the sheriff say to someone, "If he is not paying these guys for doing work at his house, I can get indicted for this shit."

RUFFIN stated he never saw Vick get paid for any of the jobs they did; but he remembered asking Vick for money once. Vick told him once I get paid I will give you some.

RUFFIN explained they had done a roofing job for a sheriff's office employee who lives just off of London Boulevard across from the church on the corner. He said that it was blue house with white trim. He recalled that they tore the roof off of the wrong house, and had to replace it. He said "Vick was pissed" because they did two roofs for the price of one. He recalled, both he and TJ received \$250.00 from Matt for the roof jobs.